

Women in The State Socialist Convention

BY MRS. R. ANNA GERMAN.

When the state convention of the Socialist party convened at Helena Montana on June 6th, 1904, there were in attendance four women delegates from several of the locals. This seemed rather an unusual showing in a state where women are not allowed full suffrage with man, however it is not surprising when you take into consideration that the Socialist's party is the only political organization in this country that recognizes woman as equal co-workers in all branches of honest occupation and education worthy of mention. Socialism stands for universal and individual freedom, and wherever voiced is the sworn friend of woman, for this reason with the great advantages it offers to humanity in general, if woman could but realize what this means for all concerned, how the yoke of oppression would be removed, and a thousand advantages over old and present unequal conditions established through the perfect system of cooperative commonwealth, she would waste no more valuable time and effort endeavoring to promote useless reforms, that are in fact no way reformitory in principle. She would take the stand for liberty, right and justice, where the greatest good will be secured for the greatest number instead of the dominating few, where the wealth producer rather than the wealth abuser may enjoy equal opportunities.

The following are the names of the women delegates; Mrs. L. H. Pierce, wife of acting state secretary. Mrs. W. H. Pierce is president of the Woman's Socialist Guild of Butte, Montana, and was nominated for clerk of the Supreme Court on the Socialist state ticket, but declined in favor of Jno. Peters of Carbon county. Mrs. Pierce is a small, elderly woman with a pleasant face, which is highly intellectual, a splendid type of the true American wife and mother.

Mrs. Ruth Scurlock was the delegate from Canyon Ferry, Lewis & Clark Co. She is a Montana ranch woman, quoted as a stock raiser, she is a large, rosy cheeked and good looking woman with the wholesome appearance of one who has been a close associate with the purity and freedom of out door farm life, she is slow of speech and retiring in manner though serious and thoughtful and displays a clear practical knowledge of right and justice when she does speak. Mrs. Scurlock's appearance at the convention afforded the observer, who was fortunate enough to know the circumstances a glimpse of the good old days when both men and women attended state gatherings for the purpose of promoting better conditions for the country and their fellow men, for honor, and not wholly for the sake of the almighty dollar. This brave woman told the writer that in as much as she had not expected to be elected to the state convention, she had made no preparations for the care of her three children during the several days absence from home of which her trip to Helena would necessitate, and in consequence there was no alternative left for her but to bring the little ones along and true to the convictions of duty both to home and humanity, she loaded a camping outfit into the prairie schooner and with the babies comfortably stowed therein, she drove to the outskirts of the capitol city and pitched her tent, thus making it possible to look after her household as well as attend the convention.

Mrs. E. Maggie Jackson was del-

egate alternate from Silver Bow county, she is the wife of Evan O. Jackson, who was nominated for Attorney General on the Socialist state ticket. Mrs. Jackson is a small, feminine looking woman but, proved herself not lacking in the true pluck and spirit as she "capped the climax" for woman's rights when in clear, decisive voice she voted for a proposition in direct opposition to that of her husband. It was evident however, that this was no indication of a "house divided against itself" for, amid considerable laughter, the husband looked over and smiled his approval for the little woman who was earnest enough in the cause she represented to declare the truth of her honest convictions.

Fourth on the list of woman delegates to the state convention was Mrs. R. Anna German of Butte, Montana. Mrs. German was nominated for Superintendent of Public Instruction on the Socialist ticket, and declares that whether elected or not, she feels proud of being the first woman nominated on the state ticket of that political party, which alone stands for purity and equal rights to all mankind. Besides she especially approves of the above named state office being filled by a woman. Mrs. German is a firm believer in the public school system of this country, and does not hesitate to say that she hopes to see the day when the Star Spangle Banner will float over but one great institution of education and that the free public schools of our nation, thus,

welding indissoluble the universal brotherhood of Man.

As a politician, the writer's experience and knowledge of the political modus operandi is very limited but, from what I have read and from the information gathered elsewhere, I should think that the old parties might have gained a clean object lesson, had they taken a peep into the recent state convention of the unsophisticated Socialists. While there were several animated arguments indulged in during the session, there was no instance wherein the chairman was not able to maintain order almost instantly while good humor and fellowship prevailed throughout. At no period during the session was that time worn prejudice for the presence of woman discernable. Indeed, several of the gentlemen—who had for many years participated in onesided politics, declared that it looked good to see them there.

In conclusion, permit me to say that the present adherence of Socialism are representatives of the future new man and new woman, who shall stand side by side, equal partakers in all that is worth living for; thus, taking every thing into consideration and, from a woman's point of view, the Socialist's state convention was decidedly a success.

T. J. Davidson of Helena who has been in the city for the past week in the interest of establishing a cooperative creamery, announces that he has about completed his work and believes that the same is an assured success.

Political Program And Summary

BY HENRY LYNCH, TRAVELING SOLICITOR

The information is given out that Mitchell rendered his decision, in favor of the company at Red Lodge, due to the "bringing in of new conditions, other than those incorporated in the 'Helena agreement,' " in that Mr. Smethurst, the duly elected checkweighman, was not, at the time of his election, an employee of the company. The miners of Red Lodge, look upon this as ridiculous, as the same claim might be made by the company, were Mr. Smethurst, or any other man to succeed himself as checkweighman, for the reason that he was an employee of the miners, and not the company.

The Socialist movement in Billings and Yellowstone county, might be amplified by more aggressive work, on the part of the comrades there. Last spring, a Socialist ticket was placed in the field with Comrade Roberts, as candidate for mayor, and although little work was done, Mr. Roberts polled 85 votes, mostly by voters not identified as Socialists, who are disgusted with the old party corruptionists. The Socialists of Yellowstone county are shaping up for the fall campaign.

"The main point is not to worry." That's the way the Sweet Grass county comrades put it, so sure are they of victory this fall. This is keenly apprehended by the republicans. In a three cornered fight, the Socialists will surely win, but it is anticipated that republicanism and democracy, will unite in name, as well as in principle; party shib-

boleths will be hurled to the winds and the redemocrats will whoop 'em up for the perpetuation of graft. The editor of the Yellowstone Leader, published at Big Timber, notified the mayor that there was a Socialist-Anarchist in town, representing the Montana News, and that steps must be taken to dispense with a program of fireworks that might occur after twilight. Were it in Livingston, preparations would be made to call out Hogan's fire department for a run through a Socialist public gathering, to put out a pile of ties ignited for the occasion. The editor in question, works the democratic end, suffers from an epizootic siege of Heinzeism parts his hair in the middle, lest he become top heavy and unbalanced, and is really graceful. He boldly asserts that Heinze is a "prince" not "tight" like Bill Clark, and that if you are there with the political dope he, (Fang) will come through superbly.

As in Carbon county, the farmers of Sweet Grass county, are taking to Socialism. A meeting of the farmers will be called at Big Timber on June 11th, for the perfection of plans for a cooperative store. Comrade Blake, an old railroad conductor and blacklisted out of the railroad business is an aggressive worker in the cause of Socialism.

A new system has been inaugurated by the Northern Pacific, to get rid of blacklisted employees, which artfully circumvents the law against blacklisting. When an employee in the train service is detected of hav-

ing a "bad record," he is called to headquarters for examination on signals, placed under a rigid test in the "dark room," and invariably is released from the service of the company, under the pretext of being "color blind." Perhaps the marked wage slave, at some time in his career, might have aligned himself with the wage slave class, and through a labor organization have endeavored to add a mite to his scant wages; might have violated the ordinary book of rules requiring 15 days notice before leaving the service of the railroad; (his dismissal requires but 15 seconds) or he might have incurred the enmity of a tyrannical superintendent. Think of it! After putting in years of his life to qualify himself along certain lines of work, he is denied the right to earn for self and family, even though he is compelled to give up approximately 83 per cent of the wealth he produces. An advocate desiring a change of this dastardly system is termed a boor in society.

A gentleman of quick step, medium height, busy in appearance, and wearing a confidential air, boarded the "Missouri limited" at Livingston, took charge of the train, collected the cash fares, checked up Mr. Conductor and left the train at Helena, as secretly as he boarded it. He was the collector and is rated one mark above the conductor, in point of honesty. He was seen in conversation with another worthy, at railroad headquarters in Helena. The other worthy was the "spotter" one degree higher in the confidence of the company than the collector. The business of these "trusties" is to detect each other in stealings, and at the same time steal all THEY can, before they are caught.

Now the relationship of the employee, and waste of labor under a distorted system: The collector is employed to watch the conductor; the spotter to watch the collector; the railroad detective to watch the spotter; the auditor and general manager to watch the foregoing, and the stockholder—the legitimized thief (not the poor devil, out of work, who steals a ham to feed to his family, and gets a year for it) he watches his dividends, and incidentally the legislatures, the courts, the pulpit and press, that his stealings are conserved, and the masses of the people—well—they just watch themselves being robbed (and they like it) under a lying, thieving, hypocritical and damnable system that will be eliminated only through Socialism.

the Local Candidates have been nominated, we intend arranging another such meeting.

The three clubs in Greater New York are about to organize a Central Committee, the first meeting of delegates to be held on June 17th. After we are once thoroughly organized we will begin to do some good effective work and then there will be no end to it, and will wake the sleeping young element out of their slumber, and educate them to realize that a class struggle is on and make them enlist in the already large army of Socialist workers. Clubs of this kind should be organized wherever there is a field to agitate for Socialism, and we will be proud when the Young Peoples' Socialist Clubs of this country can meet in a national convention, as the Young Peoples' Clubs of Austria did on May 1st, at the same time

(Continued on inside.)

HIRELING OF MINE OWNERS ASSOCIATION BLEW UP THE INDEPENDENCE

Colorado Anarchists in Power Can Secure Services of Despised Human Beings to Commit any Criminal Act Know to Man, But They Cannot Bribe the Dogs—Facts and Truth Suppressed.

William Giffels of Neihart was in the city yesterday, returning to his home from Denver, where he represented Belt Mountain Miners' union at the convention of the Western Federation of Miners, says the Great Falls Tribune.

Mr. Giffels states that, immediately following the fatal dynamiting at the Independence station, the mine owners and officers employed bloodhounds to follow the trail of the assassin who had discharged the dynamite. From the place at which the assassin had been concealed, the dogs followed the trail rapidly to the home of a man known to be in the employ of the Mine Owners' association. They were called off, and again placed on the trail. This time they again followed it to the same house. This time, the front door was open, and the dogs entered the house, by the front door, and followed the trail through the house and out at the back door. The dogs were then called off.

The Western Federation of Miners incorporated a recital of these facts in its statement to the public, offering to prove them, but the Associated Press, for good reasons, was compelled to decline to send out that portion of the statement.

The man to whose home the dogs followed the trail is the one who was accused of blowing up a train carrying non-union miners. The case dragged along for several months, and was dismissed after the Mine Owners' association got control in the Cripple Creek district. Mr. Giffels believes the strike would have been settled if the dynamiting at Independence had not occurred. He states that after a committee from the federation had waited upon the mine owners, the prospects for a settlement seemed bright. The owners admitted that the work of non-union miners was not satisfactory and had offered to make several concessions. The federation was anticipating a speedy settlement of the troubles; then the dynamiting occurred, and everything was up in the air.

The federation has decided to submit to the public a statement supplementary to that already made, and it will be prepared in a few days. Mr. Giffels believes it will command the support of the public for the federation.

Movements of Socialists

National Headquarters, Socialist Party, William Mailly, Nat'l Secretary, Chicago, Ill., June 22, 1904.

Contributions have been made to the National Campaign Fund since last report to the amount of \$27.96; previously reported, \$86.98; Total, \$114.94.

The National Quorum was called to meet at National Headquarters, Chicago, Saturday, June 11th and a report of the meeting will be sent to the press and all local secretaries. Definite plans for the campaign will be announced as a result of the meeting.

From every quarter of the country comes requests to the National Secretary for speakers and literature. Judging from the interest aroused by the national convention and the nomination of Debs and Hanford, a remarkable campaign of education is beginning. There must be no state left without its electoral ticket in this election and to accomplish this the national campaign fund should be swelled to the limit. Every Socialist should not only dig down himself on the half day's donation during the third week in June but every sympathizer within reach should be reached. Thousands of workers will contribute if they are approached in the right way and

their attention called to the importance of assisting the party of their class in this great battle. The reader of these lines who has not yet got a contribution list should write to his state secretary, or to the national secretary, if the state is unorganized.

Orders for the printed report of the national convention proceedings can be sent direct to the National Secretary with the surety that orders will be filled promptly. This is the only complete report of the convention published anywhere and its historical value should be appreciated by everyone. Price, paper cover, 50 cents; cloth \$1.

When the Secretary of the Down Town Young Peoples' Social Demo-

cratic Club of New York City sent in the donation of \$5 to the National Organizing Fund two weeks ago, he said: "Our Club is the youngest of the three clubs of this kind, having been organized on June 27, 1903, and during this period of one year we have done some good work for the party. The greatest success was the mass meeting on April 6th, at which Comrades A. M. and May Wood Simons spoke. These two lecturers were on a tour under the direction of the National Committee. There were at least 3000 persons crowded into the Hall and several hundred could not get in at all. The entire meeting was arranged by our Club. After all